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RESPONSES

ORIGINAL

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ivanpah Energy Center

Formal Public Comments
Taken at 375 West San Pedro Avenue
Goodsprings, Nevada

Thursday, December 12, 2002
7:00 P.M.

REPORTED BY: Jennifer O'Neill, CCR #763
LS&T Job No. 24690

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T3.1

1 MR. GADD: I just want to start --
 2 MR. CROCKFORD: Could you state your name.
 3 MR. GADD: Gadd, G-a-d-d. I'm a resident of
 4 Goodsprings. And I want to tell you people that I'm a
 5 chronic asthmatic, I've been one all my life and my
 6 problem is breathing. A lot of people's problems are
 7 something else but I'm an expert on breathing. I
 8 couldn't breathe good enough in Los Angeles so I
 9 retired out here to my family's house about maybe 10,
 10 13 years ago. I get along okay out here, it's a lot
 11 better because I can smell a cigarette a mile away, the
 12 smoke off one.
 13 But anyway I wanted to ask Liz Warren didn't
 14 the Goodsprings Advisory Counsel turn down this power
 15 plant originally on the vote the first time?

16 MS. WARREN: We don't have the option of
 17 turning it down.

18 MR. GADD: I mean, you voted it down.

19 MS. WARREN: We wrote a lengthy response and
 20 some of those issues have been addressed in this draft
 21 statement.

22 MR. GADD: I thought that was true.

23 MS. WARREN: And it was based on several
 24 issues. The most important one or one of the most
 25 important ones was the traffic situation on Goodsprings

T3.2

T3.1 The DEIS states that temporary impacts to air quality would occur during construction from increased dust created from land clearing, site preparation, and vehicle movement. Dust control during construction activities will be in compliance with Clark County's dust control regulations. During plant operations, impacts to air quality would not be significant. The Ivanpah Energy Center is designed to be at, or below, national and local air quality standards. Additionally, modeling was performed to include emissions associated with operations of the proposed Ivanpah Airport and the Reliant Bighorn Facility. Modeling results indicate that the project's contribution to cumulative air emissions would have a negligible impact.

T3.2 The DEIS identifies that impacts to traffic and traffic safety will occur during construction of the plant facility. Mitigation measures to minimize impacts will be implemented. See response to Comment T1.1 above.

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T3.2
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1 Road, given the volume of traffic and given the kind of
 2 road that is, and also given the fact that Nevada
 3 Department of Transportation has no plans to expand
 4 that road, not to widen it, not to build regular
 5 shoulders on it, none of that. So that was a very
 6 important issue.

T3.3

7 Air quality was a big important issue, and
 8 water consumption, water use. In fact, basically we
 9 said move it around the corner, get it out of this
 10 valley because it will not be good for the people who
 11 live in Goodsprings and who are stationary basically as
 12 you are here and who will be subjected to this. And so
 13 we wanted it moved so that it would remove the stacks
 14 and whatever is going to be emitted from those stacks
 15 from our immediate vicinity.

T3.4

16 MR. GADD: Liz speaks for all of the
 17 Goodspringers, I'm sure.

18 Now, I've been down to Primm and I suppose
 19 everybody else here has and they should go down there
 20 and take a look at that plant and see how big it is.
 21 Now, that's all private property down there and they
 22 can do whatever they want. I know they want the power
 23 and I'm not against the power. I think we're going to
 24 have to have more of it but my concern is this:
 25 Besides the health and safety of the invalids up here,

T3.5

T3.3 Your comment regarding air quality impacts is acknowledged. See the response to Comment T3.1 above. As stated in the DEIS, Ivanpah Energy Center would use refrigerated air technology which drastically reduces the need for water, when compared to other power plants of similar size. The facility would use approximately 50 acre-feet per year (afy), of which 35 afy would be provided as gray water from the Southern Nevada Correctional Center; the remaining 15 afy would originate from a yet undetermined groundwater source.

T3.4 During public scoping, Goodsprings residents suggested a potential plant site west of I-15 between mileposts 5 and 7. The DEIS evaluated the potential site along with five other site locations within the Ivanpah Valley. The site suggested by the Goodsprings residents; however, was eliminated from further consideration because it is located within the Desert Tortoise Translocation Area, several miles of transmission line corridor outside of a BLM-designated utility corridor would be needed, and no reasonable alternative routes for construction were available. A potential alternative site in Primm was identified by the project proponent and if constructed, would be co-located with the Reliant Bighorn Power Plant. The Primm plant site and the proponent's proposed site at Goodsprings were carried forward for further evaluation in the DEIS.

As stated above in previous comments, BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the "agency-preferred alternative;" however, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable following the closing of the public comment period. Therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of

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1 the school children who we don't want any more
 2 asthmatics, and we should have the commissioner, the
 3 county commissioner, come up here and see our schools,
 4 which is a historic Clark County monument, talk to the
 5 teachers, talk to our citizens, visit our homes, we're
 6 proud of them, we put them up a rail at a time, and get
 7 familiar with the area because when they -- if they put
 8 a plant of that size on our front porch, which is the
 9 only way you can get up here is by coming right by it,
 10 nobody in their right mind would spend a nickle for
 11 this property and nobody is going to get any value out
 12 of their real estate because why would we, they'll go
 13 to Vegas and build and buy. They're not going to come
 14 into a heavy industrial deal like Pittsburg was in the
 15 steel age, see.

T3.6

16 All I'm saying is please, please, move the
 17 plant further south or hide it some place behind some
 18 of these hills or something. Do something to keep the
 19 thing from just being an absolute monstrosity in this
 20 little-bity hamlet.

21 And we have a history here, there's a lot of
 22 people that live here and a lot of nice homes. We have
 23 a very distinguished citizen who's building a mansion
 24 here. Do you think he would want to drive back and
 25 forth and look at that thing every day of his life,

Also, see response to comment T3.1 above regarding air quality impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Ivanpah Energy Center at the Goodsprings site.

T3.5 Potential impacts to real estate values cannot be determined due to the volatility of the market.

T3.6 BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the "agency-preferred alternative." However, following the close of the public comment period, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable; therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of Decision.

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T3.7

T3.7 See the above responses to comments T3.4 and T3.6.

T3.8

T3.8 As stated above, BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the “agency-preferred alternative.” However, following the close of the public comment period, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable; therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an “environmentally-preferred” alternative in the Record of Decision.

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T3.9 Comment acknowledged.

T3.10

T3.10 The commenter is correct. The DEIS states that motorists would encounter visual impacts at various points along I-15, SR 161, and the intersection of Sandy Valley Road and SR 161 (see discussion on page 5-74 of the DEIS); however, the impact would be negligible because the views would be brief and of short-duration. Of the four transmission line plant access options, Option 1, which would cross over the mountain to interconnect with the VEA line, would create a “moderate” impact (refer to pages 5-78 and 5-79 of the DEIS). The DEIS states that use of Option 2 or Option 3 would reduce visual impacts associated with Option 1. BLM will consider your comment regarding visual impacts associated with transmission line plant access Option 1.

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1 there's no way that scar will ever be, and not in my
 2 lifetime nor anybody's great-grandchild in this room,
 3 would ever be obscured. So I think that that would be
 4 something I think when we look at it again as a board,
 5 we'll probably discuss that at the meeting.

T3.11

6 Speaking as the town board chair, we had
 7 requested that the whole project be moved out of the
 8 Goodsprings Valley and so we would support that option
 9 that you have here; that is the Primm site, the
 10 alternative that you have identified. Most of what we
 11 have every day is a fairly open valley. Yes, there's
 12 now a lot of vehicular traffic, not nearly like what
 13 you get in town, but still a lot for this area. Any
 14 siting of this kind of plant will cause major damage to
 15 the air quality, the noise emissions, and all that kind
 16 of thing will impact it.

T3.12

17 And while it may not seem like a lot for any
 18 one plant, by the time you accumulate these effects
 19 you're going to have a substantial change in this
 20 valley and we would like to see that deflected and put
 21 down along the I-15 corridor, which is already in my
 22 opinion condemned, to have all of those kinds of
 23 activities. It won't be noticed down there nearly the
 24 way it would be up here in this valley.

25 We'll have an opportunity, we won't have an

T3.11 As stated above, BLM has selected the Primm Plant Site as the "agency-preferred alternative." However, following the close of the public comment period, the Primm Plant site alternative became commercially unavailable; therefore, the proposed plant site at Goodsprings and the No Action Alternative remain under consideration. BLM will select an "environmentally-preferred" alternative in the Record of Decision.

T3.12 The DEIS acknowledges that the Ivanpah Valley is likely to undergo major changes as a result of future development. As indicated in DEIS Section 6.2 (Cumulative Impacts), projects such as the proposed Ivanpah Valley Airport, the Las Vegas Valley Water District pipeline, and the Table Mountain Wind Farm are expected to contribute to air quality degradation, additional loss of habitat, and degradation of visual and aesthetics resources within the area. Some impacts will be short-term and largely related to construction, others will persist throughout the life of the project. Additional impacts will result from induced development that would be associated with major projects. We acknowledge the commentor's preference for the Ivanpah Energy Center to be located at the Primm Plant Site.

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1 it wouldn't have that type of effect.

2 Actually, the Primm site, there is no visual
3 impacts going to be felt, because you have already got
4 buildings down there and another site similar; so expanding
5 that, people would expect to see it.

6 MS. BENNER: I'm in agreement. I think it should
7 go in Primm.

8 MR. CROCKFORD: Any more comments? If not, we are
9 going to shut down our comment period, official hearing of
10 the comments and remind you that formal hearing type is
11 closed now, and keep in mind that the comment period is
12 open until January 21st.

13 If you have the dates up through -- the 20th is a
14 holiday; so it is going to be January 21st, 22nd.

15 The Environmental Protection Agency is published
16 on November 22, 2002. When they put it in there, they said
17 the comment period closes on January -- it was incorrect --
18 the first part of January; so we talked to them, wrote them
19 a letter, and they are going to -- they already had put in
20 a correction and it coincides with ours. They had given
21 something like 40 days. It was not correct so we brought
22 their attention to that; so you have a 60-day comment
23 period, and it started the 22nd; so you have 60 days, and
24 then we will pull comments back together, and we will come
25 back out.

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2
3 STATE OF NEVADA)
4) ss:
5 COUNTY OF CLARK)
6
7 I, Jennifer O'Neill, Certified Shorthand
8 Reporter, hereby certify that I took down in Stenotype
9 all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled
10 matter at the time and place indicated, and that
11 thereafter said Stenotype notes were transcribed into
12 typewriting at and under my supervision.
13 That the foregoing transcript constitutes a
14 full, true and accurate record of the proceedings had.
15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my
16 name at Las Vegas, Nevada.
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JENNIFER O'NEILL, CCR #763

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